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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
/058 W
----------150045Z 070490 /61
R 141220Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3978
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMFAIRMED NAPLES
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6081

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MILI, IT
SUBJECT: USN PLANS FOR SIGONELLA

1. EMBASSY IS INFORMED THAT PLANS ARE IN PROGRESS FOR A SIGNIFICANT INCREMENT IN THE US NAVY PRESENCE AT THE NAVAL AIR FACILITY IN SIGONELLA. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT LARGE SUMS OF MONEY WILL BE DEVOTED TO CONSTRUCTION AND PERSONNEL WILL BE INCREASED BY A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD, FROM THE WORKING LEVELS OF BOTH THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALLUSIONS TO THE OVERLY LARGE AMERICAN PRESENCE AT SIGONELLA. IT APPEARS THAT THESE SO FAR GENTLE HINTS MAY BE RELATED IN PART TO PRESUMED INTERFERENCE WITH THE PLANS OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE WHICH WE UNDERSTAND INTENDS TO PHASE OUT ITS OPERATIONS AT NEARBY FONTANA ROSSA AIR FIELD AND CONSOLIDATE THOSE WITH ITS PRESENT ACTIVITIES AT SIGONELLA. THIS OF COURSE IN ADDITION TO THE PERSISTENT ATTITUDE IN THE GOI THAT DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ITALY BY VISIBLE CHANGES IN SIZE OR
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CHARACTER MAY BE A POLITICAL LIABILITY. THE PRESENT AMERICAN POPULATION AT SIGONELLA (ABOUT 2000) ALREADY WELL EXCEEDS THE NUMBERS AGREED UPON IN THE BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT (750).

3. THE FURTHER ENLARGEMENT OF THE SIGONELLA FACILITY AND ANY ALTERATION OF ITS MISSION WILL PRESUMABLY REQUIRE AN

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AMENDMENT TO THE BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT, A PROCESS WHICH UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME. TO AVOID THE WORST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI ABOUT OUR LONG RANGE PLANS FOR SIGONELLA BE HELD BEFORE IT REACHES THE GOVERNMENT VIA RUMOR. MEANWHILE THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING IN DETAIL WHAT USN PLANS ARE, WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE WAY OF CONSTRUCTION AND PERSONNEL INCREASES AND WHAT NEW OR ENHANCED MISSIONS THESE PLANS ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: REPORTS, CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2805910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USN PLANS FOR SIGONELLA
TAGS: MARR, MILI, IT, US
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